

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 04416 172241Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 SAB-02 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06  
PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /050 W  
-----180612Z 122387 /15

R 172225Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2427  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PN  
SUBJECT: LABOR UNION DEMONSTRATION

1. THERE WAS A BRIEF DEMONSTRATION BY MEMBERS OF THE PANAMA CITY AND COLON CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' UNION ON JUNE 16. PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY IN PANAMA CITY WAS A MARCH DOWN HIGHWAY FROM TOCUMEN TOWARD CITY CENTER: THERE WERE OTHER MARCHES AND/OR RALLIES IN PANAMA CITY AND COLON.

2. CROWD OF SEVERAL HUNDRED, OR POSSIBLY MORE (SOME ESTIMATES RANGED AS HIGH AS 2000) PARTICIPATED IN THE MAIN MARCH. IT WAS PEACEFUL THROUGHOUT, AND DISPERSED QUICKLY WHEN IT BEGAN TO RAIN. A WITNESS DESCRIBED THE CROWD AS OBVIOUSLY WORKERS, OR AT LEAST ADULTS, RATHER THAN STUDENTS. SOME DEMONSTRATORS MARCHED TO GN HEADQUARTERS AND MET WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF GENERAL STAFF.

3. GENESIS OF THE DEMONSTRATION WAS A RECENT PLANNING MINISTRY ACTION "FREEZING" SOME \$18 MILLION WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE TO HOUSING MINISTRY FOR RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION WORKERS, PRIMARILY FROM PUBLICLY FINANCED  
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PAGE 02 PANAMA 04416 172241Z

PROJECTS, DEMONSTRATED BECAUSE FREEZING OF FUNDS WOULD MEAN LESS CONSTRUCTION AND FEWER JOBS.

4. DEMONSTRATION HAS BEEN COOKING SINCE FUND FREEZE BECAME KNOWN TO WORKERS. THERE HAVE BEEN WILDCAT PROTEST STRIKES AT SEVERAL HOUSING MINISTRY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. "CRITICA" JUNE 16 CARRIED A PHOTO OF HOUSING MINISTER DUQUE IN DIALOG

WITH STRIKERS, AND ANOTHER JUNE 17 OF DEMONSTRATORS MEETING  
WITH GN OFFICERS.

5. COMMENT: ONLY THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' UNION--  
WHICH IS POWERFUL IN THE INDUSTRY BUT NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY  
NATIONAL CONFEDERATION--IS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THIS SERIES  
OF PROTESTS. THERE WAS NO DIRECTLY POLITICAL MOTIVATION OR CONTENT  
TO THE DEMONSTRATION ITSELF.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, LABOR UNIONS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PANAMA04416  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009